

Lent

Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. For the Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the Paschal Mystery: catechumens, through the several stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices.

(Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars, 27)

Overview

In this chapter the students will learn that Lent is a season of preparation for the great celebration of Easter.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 559 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Catechist Background

What has been your most meaningful experience of being reconciled with another person?

Lent is the season in which the Church prepares to celebrate the great Feast of Easter. The process of preparation includes liturgical and personal prayer, penance, and the good works of mercy, justice, and peace. Through the voice of the prophet Joel, God calls the faith community to:

“Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the LORD, your God” (Joel 2:13).

The Church’s focus during this penitential season includes the final preparation of catechumens, now called the elect, who will celebrate the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil, as well as on the preparation of all believers for the renewal of their Baptism.

“By accepting Baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection, people affirm their faith and are initiated and welcomed into the community of faith. Dedicated to and enlightened by the Spirit, made sons and daughters of God with a permanent relationship in Christ, and cleansed from sin through water and the Holy Spirit, they become a new

creation.” (*National Catechetical Dictionary for Catholics of the United States*, 116)

From Ash Wednesday until the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, the People of God strengthen their relationship with Christ. On Passion or Palm Sunday, the Church celebrates Jesus’ messianic entry into the holy city of Jerusalem. In unison with those who first welcomed him with palm branches and “Hosanna,” the Church prays, “Blessed is he

who comes in the name of the LORD”
(Psalm 118:26).

Lent is the season of reconciliation with God and others as we prepare to renew our Baptism. We heed Jesus’ insistent call: “Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter’s correlation to Six Tasks of Catechesis.

How will you help strengthen your relationship with Christ during Lent?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Focus

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

<p>page 171 Introduce the Season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the <i>Chapter Story</i>. • Introduce the season of Lent. • Proclaim the verse on the banner. 	
<p>page 172</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the question about self-improvement. 	

2 WE BELIEVE

<p>pages 172–174 Lent is a season of preparation for the great celebration of Easter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the season of Lent and its call to prayer, penance, and good works.  Complete the Lenten plan. • Read about and discuss Passion (Palm) Sunday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • index cards • red chalk
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3 WE RESPOND

<p>page 174</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the questions about palm branches and signs of new life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • palm branch for each child (optional) • scissors (optional)
<p>Text page 175 Guide page 175–176 We Respond in Prayer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to Scripture.  Respond in song. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prayer space items: a cross; a bowl of holy water; empty plate or cup; bowl of ashes; purple battery-operated candles; purple table covering  Sign Us with Ashes,” Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt, #19, Grade 5 CD
<p>Text page 176 Guide pages 175–176, 176A Project Disciple</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Project Disciple activities. • Complete Reproducible Master 20 activity. See Guide pages 176A and 171C. • Discuss/send home Sharing Faith with My Family, guide page 176B. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of Reproducible Master 20, guide page 176A. • copies of Sharing Faith with My Family, guide page 176B.

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier’s

www.WEBELIEVEweb.com